C L A I M S

What is claimed is:

1. In an image-method procedure for automated contrast modification of digital image data in which at least a low and a high-frequency signal component are formed from the image signal of the image data; the low-frequency signal component is modified according to a characteristic-curve function; and then the modified, low-frequency signal component is then added to the high-frequency signal component, the improvement wherein the low-frequency signal component to be modified is formed in dependence upon high-frequency image components derived from the image data.

2. Image-processing method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the filter frequency used to form the low-frequency signal component is varied in dependence upon the high-frequency image components.

3. Image-processing method as recited in Claim 2, wherein the filter frequency used to form the low-frequency signal component is varied in dependence upon the local frequency spectrum of the image.

4. Image-processing method as recited in Claim 1, wherein a high-frequency signal component is added to the low-frequency signal component in the region of high-frequency image components.

5. Image-processing method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the high-frequency image components are determined using an edge-detection process.

6. Image-processing method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the high-frequency image components are determined from Fourier transforms of the digital image data.

7. Image-processing method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the high-frequency image components are determined from the compressed image data.